

Town of Loxahatchee Groves

Special Town Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 25, 2016 5:00 p.m.

Town of Loxahatchee Groves Town Offices, 155 F Road
Loxahatchee Groves, Florida 33470

Mayor David Browning (Seat 4)
Vice-Mayor Tom Goltzené (Seat 5)
Councilman Ronald D. Jarriel (Seat 1)
Councilman Ryan Liang (Seat 3)
Councilman Todd McLendon (Seat 2)

Town Manager William F. Underwood, II
Town Clerk Virginia Walton
Town Attorney Michael D. Cirullo, Jr.

MINUTES

1. OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

a. Call to Order & Roll Call

Mayor Browning called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Mayor David Browning, Vice-Mayor Tom Goltzené, Councilmen Ronald D. Jarriel, Council Member Todd McLendon, Council Member Ryan Liang, Town Manager William F. Underwood, II by telephone, Town Attorney Michael D. Cirullo, Jr. and Town Clerk Virginia Walton.

b. Approval of Agenda

Motion: a motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Council Member Liang and seconded by Vice Mayor Goltzené. Motion passed 5 – 0.

2. BIG DOG RANCH RESCUE V. TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, PALM BEACH COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, CASE NO. 502016CA005654XZXXXMB

Town Attorney Cirullo explained that Florida Statutes required that he request in a public meeting that the Council schedule a closed door-shade meeting in order to discuss the pending litigation and settlement options. Attorney Cirullo requested that the Council meet tomorrow, May 26, 2016 at 3:00 pm for this closed door-shade meeting.

Mayor Browning addressed the public present at the meeting and explained that public comment was limited to this one item on the agenda and would be allowed prior to Council vote. The one item was whether or not the Town Council should meet in a closed door session to discuss and explore settlement options. A Court Order had required the parties meet for Mediation, which had taken place. The Mediator had instructed both parties that the mediation was confidential while the suit was ongoing. Therefore, no discussion concerning the details of the suit could take place today. Mayor Browning understood that people had strong feelings on this issue and he asked that any comments be kept to the item on the agenda, be kept civil and brief.

Consensus of comments was that the public had been misinformed in believing that this meeting was a regular meeting where they could speak on the issues.

The following members of the public spoke in favor of the Council having the meeting to come up with solutions to the issues:

Thais Gonzalez, James Himmell, Kristine Kaelin, Linda Obermeyer, Bill Louda, Tracy Amara, Susan Kope, Linda Isaacs, Norman Merkel, Ellen Flynn, Valerie Roy and Tom Flynn.

A petition and letters in support of Big Dog Ranch were submitted to the Council.

Motion: a motion to receive and file the petition and letters was made by Council Member McLendon and seconded by Council Member Liang. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Council Member Jarriel added that he wished they didn't have to have this meeting but hoped the meeting would be positive for the dogs.

a. Attorney Request to Schedule a Closed Door-Shade Meeting

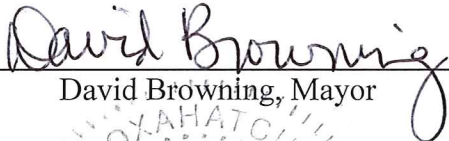
F. S. 286.011(8) Allows the Mayor, Town Council, and the Town Manager to Meet in a Closed-Door Attorney/Client Session for the Purpose of Discussing Strategy Related to Litigation.

Motion: a motion schedule a closed door-shade meeting on May 26, 2016 at 3:00 pm was made by Council Member Liang and seconded by Council Member McLendon. Motion passed 5 – 0.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Special Meeting was motioned and adjourned at 5:17 pm.


Virginia M. Walton, Town Clerk


David Browning, Mayor

